

DFS QUARTERLY

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Governor's Task Force on Building and Fire Safety

On February 20, 2003, a devastating fire occurred in West Warwick, Rhode Island. Unfortunately, this fire, which left 100 people dead and many more hospitalized with debilitating injuries, will be added as one of the U.S.'s ten deadliest fires public assembly fires.

At the request of Governor Mitt

Romney, a Task Force on Fire and Building Safety has been convened to review fire and building safety in places of assembly. The goal of this task force is to look at four main issues surrounding nightclub environments to ensure that a similar event would not happen in the Commonwealth: expansion of the use of fire sprinklers including the

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Fire Departments Should Send Applications to the OSFM 10 Days Before Fireworks Displays

Applications for fireworks displays must be made in writing to the head of the fire department at least 15 days in advance of the display - 527 CMR 2 Section 3 (b).

The head of the fire department is required to make sure pertinent facts of the application are in conformance with the regulations and also to physically inspect the prospective display grounds. The inspection is to ensure that the planned display can safely take place at

that location in conformance with the regulations.

In addition, the head of the fire department must send a copy of the application to the State Fire Marshal indicating if the chief endorses the application, or his reasoning if he does not. This should happen after his inspection of the display grounds, but no later than five days after receiving the application (and this should be no later than ten days prior to the show). ♦

Peter Lamb Named Academy Director

The State Fire Marshal and the Massachusetts Fire Training Council have agreed on the appointment of Peter Lamb as the new Director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Peter has 27 years experience with the fire service including five here at the Department of Fire Services (DFS). He was appointed Recruit Coordinator at the Mass. Firefighting Academy in 1998 and promoted to Development, Staff

Services and Certification Manager in 2001. The DFS staff is looking forward to working with Peter in his new position as Director.

The State Fire Marshal and the senior staff have extended their sincere appreciation to Everett Pierce for his dedication and work during the last 12 months as Senior Manager of the Firefighting Academy. Everett will remain in his existing position as the Program Services Manager. ♦



From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

In the aftermath of the tragic Rhode

Island nightclub fire on February 20, the Governor asked Public Safety Secretary Edward A. Flynn to create and head a Task Force on Building and Fire Safety. The membership of the task force includes state and local fire and building officials, representatives of the hospitality and entertainment industries, a district attorney, two fathers who lost their sons in the fire at The Station, and the chairmen of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Public Safety, a representative from the Alcoholic Beverages Commission, the Polic Chiefs Association of Mass., and the Mass. Municipal Association.

The four main areas the task force is considering are: sprinkler requirements, egress requirements, use of pyrotechnics, and flammable decorations. Since these areas fall under the jurisdiction of both the State Building and Fire Codes, Commissioner Lalli of the Department of Public Safety and I have committed extensive staff resources to support and facilitate the important work of the task force.

The task force has been meeting since April and has held four public forums in Springfield, Worcester, Boston and Hyannis from late April through early June. Each forum had an afternoon and an evening session

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From the Fire Marshal

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for public participation. Local fire and building officials, concerned members of the public, and restaurant, club, and theatre owners were invited to present their ideas on how to improve public safety in restaurants, theatres, night-clubs and large entertainment venues.

One of the themes that comes up over and over again is education. Education for club owners and on-duty staff, education for the public, education for fire and building inspectors. Another issue that is raised often is both the difficulty and the importance of properly staffing local inspection units in these tough economic times.

Homeland Security Conference

In early May, the Department of Fire Services hosted a two day Homeland Security Conference which was attended by 300 police, fire and emergency management professionals from throughout New England. The Department of Fire Services, through its training division, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, strives to provide this type of joint training for fire, police and emergency responders. In the post 9/11 world, all first responders realize that such incidents require them to respond as a single, cohesive entity. Major incidents are not fire scenes or crime scenes or mass casualty scenes; they can be all three. Pre-planning, developing coordinated command and communications, and the person to person working relationships through joint training are the elements that will save lives in a serious incident. This conference had experts from around the world, who have been dealing with threats to their own homeland security for some time. Americans can learn from their experiences, both from others' mistakes and their successes. ♦

1st Responder Safety at Hybrid Vehicles

New hybrid vehicles feature the combination of two different power sources: a gasoline powered engine and an electric motor. Because these vehicles use battery packs and high voltage electrical systems, it is very important that emergency personnel (or anyone inspecting or working on these vehicles) be aware of safety precautions.

Toyota advises the Prius hybrid system contains circuits capable of producing 274 volts. The Prius relies on a nickel-metal hydride battery pack that is contained behind the rear seat of the vehicle. All high voltage wires and harnesses on the car are identified with bright orange colored insulation or wrapping. Rescue personnel are cautioned to never attempt to disable

The Honda also uses a nickel-metal hydride battery pack that is mounted in an integrated power unit (IPU) enclosed in the rear portion of the car. It is well isolated to prevent tampering or injury. All high voltage cables on the Insight are also identified with bright orange colored insulation. Rescue personnel should not attempt to disable the electrical system on this car. A properly trained technician should do this. First responders can obtain the Emergency Response Guide by going to www.toyota.com click on *Prius* and then *Safety* or go directly to http://www.toyota.com/html/shop/vehicles/prius_safety.html, then click on the *Emergency Response Guide*.

Honda also advises that the electric motor assembly uses very strong

magnets and cautions anyone with a pacemaker or other magnetically sensitive medical implant should not handle the rotor assembly if removed from the vehicle. Rescue personnel are cautioned not to put their laptop com-

puters on the electric motor assembly. Honda recommends removal of the IPU if there is welding to be done in the area surrounding it. Keep in mind the Insight uses aluminum construction, which conducts electricity at a much higher rate than steel.

There are not too many of these cars on the road yet, but their popularity is sure to climb. Check with your local shop or dealer for instructions on how to work on or around these types of vehicles to prevent injury or death to you, a co-worker, or a patient. ♦



the electrical system on this car. This procedure should be left to a properly trained technician. The cables and service plug used to disable the electrical system are contained in the trunk. Once the service plug has been pulled by the technician, the system must be allowed to fully discharge for at least five minutes before touching any wiring in the high voltage circuits. Repair shop technicians must follow these procedures.

The Honda Insight hybrid system contains circuits producing 144 volts.

The Facts About Cells Phones & Gas Stations: Nearly Impossible to Cause Fires

In response to several recent inquiries into the fire risk cell phones pose, the DFS Public Information Officer asked our technical staff to evaluate it. The following is the reply.

The e-mail sent to you has all the hallmarks of an urban legend e-mail. I agree that fires are possible by static electricity (person to car static discharge where vapors are present), but the possibility of a cell phone starting a gasoline station fire is remote to the point of almost being impossible. Certainly the scenarios outlined in this e-mail are impossible. People love to bash cell phones, and they love to make up crazy stories to drive everyone crazy. If a cell phone on a car trunk lid could ignite fumes that are supposedly present in enough quantity to burn then why don't we see countless fires caused by other running cars in the vicinity (headlights, other electrical devices under hood)? Also, it is interesting to note that NFPA 30A (the standard for gas stations) does not require ANY special rated electrical devices once you are beyond 18 inches from the pump (except for along the ground where gasoline vapors would settle). So, things such as lighting on the canopy or intercoms, which are present at virtually all self-service stations (in Mass. anyway), are not specially rated and in fact are a much more credible ignition source than a cell phone.

Use of Mobile Phones and Portable Radios in Gasoline Stations

A Motorola Background Paper 3 May 2002

Over the last several years, there has been occasional speculation in the media and over the Internet that the use of mobile phones at gasoline stations could pose a risk of fire or explosion. This issue can be traced to reports of alleged incidents that have

been investigated and never verified. Having looked into this issue at some length, Motorola can report that:

- We know of no documented incident anywhere in the world where the use of a mobile phone or portable radio was identified as the cause of a fire or explosion in a gasoline station.
- There is no credible reason to believe that the use of these products poses any such hazard.

In response to rumors that attracted considerable attention in 1999, Motorola commissioned a review by an independent scientific, engineering and technical consulting firm: Exponent Failure Analysis Associates. Exponent concluded in December 1999 that "the use of a cell phone at a gasoline filling station under normal operating conditions presents a negligible hazard" and that the likelihood of such an accident under any conditions "is very remote."

"Automobiles (which have numerous potential ignition sources) pose a greater ignition hazard," the report said. "Finally, other potential ignition sources are present, such as static discharge between a person and a vehicle."

An analysis by the Center for the Study of Wireless Electromagnetic Compatibility Center at the University of Oklahoma reached a similar conclusion in August 2001. It said research into the issue "provided virtually no evidence to suggest that cell phones pose a hazard at gas stations."

"While it may be theoretically possible for a spark from a cell phone battery to ignite gas vapor under very precise conditions, the historical evidence does not support the need for further research," the report said. "Until there is evidence to the contrary, we suggest that no further action be initiated in this regard, and that no recommenda-

tion for further action is required of the wireless phone or the petroleum industries."

The Exponent and Oklahoma reviews agreed that the issue was whether a battery-related spark could create a source of ignition. The radio signals from the phone were not at issue.

The use of mobile phones in gasoline stations long ago attained the status of an "urban legend" – rumor and supposition accorded undue credence because of repeated mentions in the media and over the Internet. In the end, public policies and consumer advice must be based not on speculation but fact. The facts in this case are clear. They are reinforced by extensive engineering analysis and suggest that there is no sound technical basis to prohibit the use of mobile phones in gasoline stations or single them out as hazards.

References

"Cell Phone Usage at Gasoline Stations." Report to Motorola by Exponent Failure Analysis Associates, Menlo Park, California USA. December 1999.

"Investigation of the Potential for Wireless Phones to Cause Explosions at Gas Stations." Center for the Study of Wireless Electromagnetic Compatibility, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma USA. August 2001. <http://www.ou.edu/engineering/emc/>

"Gas Station Warnings Perpetuate 'Urban Legend.'" Statement of Tom Wheeler, president and CEO of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association. October 7, 1999. www.wow-com.com/news/press/body.cfm?record_id=407

"Fuelish Pleasures: Is Using a Cell Phone at a Gas Station Dangerous?" Urban Legends Reference Pages. January 2002. www.snopes2.com/autos/hazards/gasvapor.htm ♦

MFIRS CORNER

Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System

Coding Tips

It's summertime and that means barbecues and fireworks. Here are a few coding tips for fire incident reports:

Fireworks

1. If you have a fireworks explosion with no fire, you code the Incident Type as a 243 – Fireworks explosion (no fire).
- Any casualty under this incident type would be classified as an EMS Casualty and not a Civilian Fire Casualty.
2. If fireworks have started a fire or their explosion is involved in a fire, code the incident as the type of fire it is (Incident Type 100 – 199) and code Heat Source = 54 in Section D2 on the Fire Module.
- If the fireworks ignited more fireworks, you can code Item First Ignited = 88 in Section D3 on the Fire Module.
- If fireworks are stored at the site of the incident, code On-Site Materials = 934 in Section C on the Fire Module.

We encourage you to report these incidents. Our statistics on the number of fires and explosion incidents occurring in Massachusetts come from these numbers. In 2001 there were 43 fireworks-related fires. So many fireworks fires have traditionally been considered “no-loss” brush fires and therefore not reported. It makes it hard to prove our case about just how

dangerous these are and what the cost is to the fire service.

Barbecue Grill Fires

1. If the fire is contained to the grill, code the Incident Type as a 162 – Outside Equipment Fire.
- On the Fire Module your Equipment Involved in Ignition, Section F1, would be 643 – Grill, hibachi, barbecue.

You would then select the appropriate code for Section F2, Equipment Power Source.

- 11 or 12 – Electrical Line Voltage;
 - 22 – LP Gas or Other Heavier Than Air Gas;
 - 42 – Coal, charcoal.
2. If the grill had started a fire, code the fire as the type of fire it is and complete the Equipment Sections (F1 & F2) as you would in #1.

Fire Form or Wildland Form?

Please remember that even if you are using 3rd party software you have the option of using the Fire Form instead of the Wildland Form. The Wildland Form is an **optional** form that may be used for any of the following Incident Types: 140-143, 160, 170-173, 561, 631 and 632.

Every Exposure Needs Its Own Basic Form

Please remember that every exposure needs its own separate Basic Form with the appropriate exposure number. That has not changed from version 4 to version 5; it's still the same.

Special Tracking of Fatal and Large Loss Fires

If you have a fire or explosion with a fatality or large loss (>\$1,000,000),

please forward a paper copy of the MFIRS report with a completed Remarks section to Derryl Dion within 2 business days. The report should include the Basic, Fire, Civilian Fire and / or Fire Service Casualty Module(s), and Structure Fire Module (needed for all structure fires). This most likely will be a preliminary report and you can file the complete report at a later date unless otherwise noted.♦

Sending MFIRS Reports By E-Mail

The e-mail address to send your reports to is: MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us. One or two days after your first submission via e-mail please call Derryl Dion at (978) 567-3382 to confirm its receipt.

When submitting MFIRS incidents electronically please put the department's name and date range in the subject line of the e-mail or on the label of the disk.

If submitting paper forms please enter both the code and accompanying text description throughout the forms.♦

2001 County Profiles

By this printing, every fire department has received a *2001 County Profile* for its particular county. If you have not received a copy of your county, please contact Derryl Dion at (978) 567-3382 and we will send one out to you. We are currently working on *The Massachusetts Fire Problem: 2001 Annual Report of the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System*.

99.7% of Fire Departments Reported in 2001

We would like to thank you for your attention to submitting your incident reports to us and making needed corrections in a timely fashion. In

MFIRS

continued

2001, 364 out of the Commonwealth's 365 fire departments either submitted incident reports to MFIRS or certified that they had no reportable fires in 2001. This is a 99.7% compliance rate, the highest ever. Without these quality incident reports we would not be able to produce reliable statistical reports about the state's fire experience. ♦

2002 Fire Data

Feedback Reports Sent to Fire Departments in May

By this printing, every fire department has either received some 2002 year-feedback report(s) or a notice that the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) does not have any reports on file from your department for 2002. These reports contain preliminary statistics and now is the time to track down missing reports, submit revised reports on causes determined after investigation, and make any other corrections.

If you did not have any reportable fires in 2002, please sign the supplied certificate and return it to Derryl Dion at the OSFM as soon as possible. Otherwise send us your reports or corrections. If you are having trouble with your computer systems, you can forward paper copies and we will enter them into the system. Our goal is to get all the reports entered by mid-June so we can start to compile statistics for 2002 while they are still fresh, relevant and most useful. ♦

MFIRS Training

1. Thursday, 9/4/03 @ DFS, Stow, MA from 09:00 – 13:00
Course # 200000613 Session A.
2. Thursday, 11/13/03 @ Marblehead F.D., from 09:00 – 13:00
Course #200000613 Session B.

Please send in your Academy registration applications as soon as possible. ♦

40 Graduate from Chief Fire Officer Training Program

On May 22, 2003, 40 fire service personnel from 33 communities graduated from the ten-week Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program at the Massachusetts Fire-fighting Academy in Stow. The program was developed, in accordance with National Fire Protection Association Standards for chief fire officers, and is delivered by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute for Governmental Services. It is a comprehensive course providing training in the non-fire suppression aspects of managing fire department organizations.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "The fire service faces many new challenges in the post 9/11 world and our leaders need to continually develop their arsenal of skills to be ready."

Brockton Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, president of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts was the keynote speaker. He applauded the graduates saying "Completing this course, you lead by example, demonstrating that firefighters, regardless of rank, must continually expand and hone their skills."

Fire officers from the following communities graduated in this afternoon's ceremony: Arlington, Bourne, Burlington, Carver, Charlton, Concord, Dudley, East Longmeadow,

Fall River, Foxborough, Hingham, Ipswich, Kingston, Longmeadow, Lunenburg, Manchester, Marshfield, Middleborough, North Attleboro, Northampton, Norwood, Onset, Peabody, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Spencer, Sutton, Turners Falls, Westfield, Westminster, Westwood, Weymouth, and Winchendon.

The curriculum covers a spectrum of topics considered essential for effective public sector management. It includes human resource management, group dynamics, leadership and legal issues, governmental and organization structures, information management, customer-focused strategic planning, legal aspects, budgets and public finance, community awareness and public relations, and labor relations.

The Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program strives to help fire officers improve their ability to lead and manage personnel and the department, to provide skills to understand employee's needs and problems, to promote personal productivity, to increase the capacity to manage both human and technical resources, and to increase interagency cooperation. Participants must complete a project whose program content can be implemented at the completion of the course. ♦

Keyboard Shortcuts

Keyboarding, a feature offered on the PC World web sites, lists 2,900 keyboard shortcuts. So it's pretty safe to assume they'll have whatever it is you've been looking for and lots more.

The important fact about keyboard shortcuts is they can save you mouse

clicks and it's mouse usage that leads to carpal tunnel problems.

Another great feature about Keyboarding is it's a free download.

For complete details log on to http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,22120,tk,hsx,00.asp ♦

NEWS FROM CPSC

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is www.cpsc.gov.

Lighters and Candles

Feb. 13, 2003 - Release # 03-081

Young's J.K. Inc. Announce Recall of Novelty Lighters

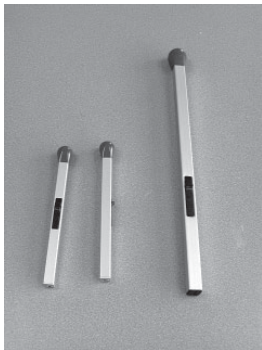
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prhtml03/03081.html>.



May 8, 2003 - Release # 03-122

Amen Wardy Home Announce Recall of Multi-purpose Lighters Shaped Like Matchsticks

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03122.html>



April 7, 2003 - Release # 03-105

CPSC Bans Candles With Lead-Cored Wicks

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03105.html>

Tools and Outdoor Equipment

Feb. 14, 2003 - Release # 03-082

Robert Bosch Tool Corp. Recalls Skil Warrior Drill Battery Chargers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03082.html>



March 6, 2003 - Release # 03-091

Makita U.S.A. Recalls to Repair Electric Sanders

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03091.html>



March 20, 2003 - Release # 03-097

Comarco Inc. Recalls to Replace Detachable Plugs On Power Adapters

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03097.html>

March 4, 2003 - Release #03-089

Murray Inc. Recalls Riding Lawn Tractors

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03089.html>



March 27, 2003 - Release # 03-102

The Toro Company Recalls Snowthrowers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03102.html>



May 29, 2003 – Release # 03-541

Stihl Inc. Recalls Chain Saws

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03541.html>



CPSC News

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Home Appliances

March 4, 2003 - Release # 03-088

IBM Announces Recall to Repair Computer Monitors

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03088.html>

March 6, 2002 - Release #03-090

Atico International USA Inc. Announces Recall of Hot Pots

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/>



[prhtml03/03090.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03090.html)

March 13, 2003 - Release # 03-094

Trudeau Corp. Recalls Fondue Sets

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03094.html>

March 27, 2003 - Release # 03-099

Maytag Corp. Announces Recall to Repair Gas Ranges

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03099.html>



April 17, 2003 - Release # 03-108

Thomson Recalls Home Entertainment Amplifiers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03108.html>

April 24, 2003 - Release # 03-113

Panasonic Recalls Battery Packs

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03113.html>

April 24, 2003 - Release # 03-114

WestPoint Stevens Inc. Announce Recall of Electric Blankets

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03114.html>

April 24, 2003 - Release # 03-115

DesignPac Inc. Recalls Oil Lamps

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03115.html>

May 8, 2003 - Release # 03-123

Wal-Mart Announce Recalls Fabric Lanterns

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03123.html>



May 22, 2003 - Release # 03-129

United General Supply Co. Announce Recall of Extension Cords

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03129.html>

May 22, 2003 - Release # 03-130

Sea Gull Lighting Inc. Recalls Ceiling Light

Fixtures

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03130.html>



Fireworks

February 20, 2003 - Release # 03-083

Fireworks of Alabama Recalls Bamboo-Stick Sparklers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03083.html>

Sprinklers

April 25, 2003 - Release # 03-116

American Household Inc. (Formerly Sunbeam Corp.) Recalls Star ME-1 Dry Fire Sprinklers, Administrative Lawsuit Settlement

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03116.html>

April 25, 2003 - Release # 03-117

CPSC Warns Consumers to Replace Star ME-1 Dry Fire Sprinklers Made by Sprinkler Corp. of Milwaukee; Firm Financially Unable to Conduct Recall

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03117.html>

May 28, 2003 - Release # 03-133

Central Sprinkler Company Update Voluntary Recall To Replace O-Ring Fire Sprinklers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03133.html>

Recall Round-Up

April 29, 2003 - Release # 03-119

CPSC Says Deadly Products Are Still In Use Despite Warnings and Recalls; Agency Releases "Most Hazardous" List and Urges Home Inspections

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp>



Governor's Task Force on Building and Fire Safety

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retrofitting of existing buildings; review of egress requirements and occupancy limits; further regulation of and/or elimination of pyrotechnics in entertainment venues, as well as enhancing criminal penalties for violation of these laws; and a review of existing regulations relative to flammable decorations and interior finishes.

The task force held four public forums for public safety officials, owners and managers of entertainment venues, as well as the general public. The four public forums were held in Springfield on May 5th, Worcester on May 12th, Boston on May 21, and Hyannis, Cape Cod on June 4th.

Municipal fire and building officials, and officials from other state agencies including the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, Department of Public Safety, and the District Attorneys Association of Massachusetts were given this information and asked to distribute it to members of the public, restaurant, club, and theatre owners in their communities, and invite their input. A special effort was made to inform the owners and operators of small venues who may have a band on weekends, and seasonal facilities.

Members

The members of the Task Force are:

Edward A. Flynn, Secretary of Public Safety

Robert C. Haas, Undersecretary of Public Safety

Stephen D. Coan, State Fire Marshal

Joseph Lalli, Commissioner of Public Safety

Senator Stephen Brewer and Representative Timothy Toomey from the Joint Committee on Public Safety

Thomas Gatzunis, P.E., Chairman,

Board of Building Regulations and Standards

David Demers, P.E., Board of Fire Prevention Regulations

Maurice Pilette, P.E., Chairman, Fire Safety Commission

Chief Kevin Partridge, President, Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.

Chief Steven P. Edwards, Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.

William Klauer, President, Fire Prevention Association of Mass.

Lt. Kevin McDonough, representing the Fire Prevention Association of Mass.

Chief Timothy Travers, Chairman, Mass. Fire Service Commission

Matt Feher and Don Johnson representing the Massachusetts Municipal Association

Commissioner Paul Christian of the Boston Fire Department

William M. Bennett, Hampden County District Attorney, representing the District Attorneys of Massachusetts

Gary Moccia, P.E., of the Boston Inspectional Services Department

Peter G. Christie representing the Massachusetts Restaurant Association

Patrick Lyons representing nightclub owners

Josiah Spaulding, CEO, Wang Center, representing theater owners

Mary Jo Griffin, Chairperson, Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission

Bruce Montgomery of the Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts

Edward V. Colbert, III, Esquire

Gerald Brown, Timothy Neyhart and David Moore representing Mass. building officials

Albert Gray and James C. Gahan, representing The Station Nightclub Survivors and Victims' Families

Testimony at the "Nightclub Safety" Task Force

The following speech was delivered into testimony at the Hyannis public forum of the Governor's Task Force on Fire and Building Safety on June 4, 2003 by Claude Schlieff of Taunton.

"I am speaking here today on behalf of Kristine Carbone of Taunton. Kristine can't speak for herself; you see Kristine was one of the 100 victims recovered from the rubble of what was once the Station Night Club in West Warwick Rhode Island.

What started as a *girls night out* for Kristine, her friend Terry Rakoski and Terry's sister Tina Derenzo became an inescapable inferno. None of the girls made it out alive.

Myself & Kristine's family, Her parents, Pat & Lillian Carbone and Kristine's only sibling, her sister Patrice Carbone didn't receive official word that Kristine was formally identified until 5 days after the fire. It took dental records to make the identification.

Her body burned to the point that we could not have a viewing at her wake.

I retrospect to the events of Feb 20, 2003, it's easy to point fingers and assess blame. From the bands' pyrotechnics, to the overcrowding, to no sprinkler system, and to the non fire retardant foam.

No one person is to blame, a chain of poor decisions made by many all came together that February night. Unfortunately 100 people had to die and scores of other injured. Some will suffer from their injuries for the rest of their lives.

What can be done in the future that while never preventing this tragedy from being repeated, can possibly reduce the fatalities and or injured?

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Testimony at the “Nightclub Safety” Task Force

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Repealing of the grandfather clauses in local zoning that protects the owners of clubs, restaurants and bars from being required to have sprinkler systems because the age of the building is such that expenses would be high. A new structure that is built with the best of new generation materials, many that are fire retardant on their own are required to have a sprinkler system but a structure that is 25, 30 maybe 40 years old and in some cases older is not required to have a sprinkler? That is backward logic in my eyes!

I would like to see all public gathering facilities from restaurants, bars, clubs and movie theaters be required to have floor level emergency lighting such that is found in airliners.

Having ceiling level emergency lighting makes little sense when a building is filling with toxic smoke. From the time we are able to understand personal safety we have been taught to get as close to the floor as possible if there is smoke. That is where the cooler, cleaner air will be found. Hopefully long enough to escape. Having these floor level lights that change color within a few feet of an exit will also help in escape.

Having the Emergency Exits CLEARLY MARKED not just with an Exit Sign above the door but to have it a different color than its surroundings. Being able to see the door may have reduced the number of deaths that night. Make it a felony for a club to lock emergency doors from the inside so as prevent people from opening them to let others sneak in. How much more can it cost to have a person watch the door or have an enunciator device attached to it?

Eliminating the turnstile mechanism at the entrance to a club would prevent the bottleneck of people trying to get out. Officials have stated that the majority of victims were found piled up near the main entrance.

Finally I would like to see the insurance companies step up to the plate and require sprinkler systems whether there is a grandfather clause or not. I often wonder, where are the insurance companies during all this discussion? If a club does not install sprinklers they do not get insurance or the cost of insurance is astronomical. If they have sprinklers installed the premiums are lower. I can guarantee that if zoning laws were enacted that required sprinklers that many clubs would chance it that they would not get caught and if caught the fine would be minimal. However if the insurance companies required it there would be instant compliance.

Many business owners will say that they can't afford these changes and that the cost would be a burden.

I say ask the owners of the Station how much of a burden it is not to have installed sprinklers.

Tragedy always affects change; it is my hope that this tragedy will also affect change.

If laws are passed and these laws save one life than I believe the soul of Kristine Carbone and those of the 99 other victims will live on in the person or persons that these laws saved. And in some small way Kristine's death was not in total vain.” ♦

NFPA 1 Now On-line

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced that it has posted new standards on-line for free including the 2003 edition of NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code. Other new standards are posted there as well and they can be viewed at www.nfpa.org.

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) has voted to adopt National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1- Uniform Fire Code (2003 edition) as the basis for the new Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code. The Board has set up a subcommittee to review the existing 527 CMR and NFPA 1 and submit proposals to the BFPR that would amend NFPA 1 to meet the needs of Massachusetts. The BFPR wants to ensure that Massachusetts maintains its position as a leader in protecting public safety while simultaneously moving towards a uniform, national fire code. It should be the best of both worlds – NFPA 1 and the best of what is currently in 527 CMR. Fire prevention officers throughout the state would be well-served to begin to familiarize themselves with NFPA 1.

The goal is to have the new state fire code, which is based on a uniform national standard, in place in 2004.

As good as our fire code is now, the model code will meet or exceed its requirements and add new areas of oversight by the fire official.

It addresses areas not currently covered by our existing fire code (527 CMR) such as hazardous materials.

It takes advantage of the resources and technical expertise of dozens of national experts and the consensus code making process of NFPA, without losing local flexibility and authority.

The code stays current with technology and technique that is recognized as appropriate for public safety. ♦

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

10th Year of Partnership with Papa Gino's

2003 marks the tenth year that Papa Gino's Inc. has partnered with New England fire departments to promote fire safety during the month of October. Once again this year, the company will be assisting local fire departments in communities where they have restaurants, sponsor open houses at local fire stations. The open houses have been extremely successful in bringing members of the community into the local station to learn about general fire and life safety and to learn about the many different services the fire department provides. ♦

Dates Set for 9th Annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference

The 9th Annual Massachusetts Fire and Life Safety Education Conference will be held on September 23-24, 2003 at the Mansfield Holiday Inn. The Mass. Public Fire and Life Safety Education Task Force is working on putting the finishing touches to the conference so that the registration brochure will be ready in June. They would like to ask people to share the "save the date" flyer with as many people as possible, especially teachers before they disappear over the summer.

If people would like to receive the registration brochure by e-mail they can request it by sending an e-mail to Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us with the word "conference" in the subject line. It will also be published on-line at www.mass.gov/dfs/pubedconf. ♦



Fire Prevention Week October 5-11, 2003

The National Fire Protection Association, the national sponsors of Fire Prevention Week, have announced that the 2003 theme will be "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!" ♦

June 22, 2003 - Western Massachusetts Family Fire Safety Day

In conjunction with the New England Association of Fire Chiefs Conference, S.A.F.E. Educators from nine area fire departments, the Western Massachusetts Safe Kids Coalition and members of the Massachusetts General Hospital Burn Unit will showcase static and interactive displays and educational demonstrations. With special guest appearances from Cinder the Fire Safety Clown, Sparky the Fire Dog ® and his friend Winnie the Pooh. The event will be held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds (AKA "The Big E") in West Springfield. Activities start at 11:00 a.m. ♦

Seasons of Change: Life Safety Through the Generations



9th Annual Massachusetts Fire and Life Safety Education Conference

September 23th and 24th, 2003

Mansfield Holiday Inn • Mansfield, Massachusetts

Department of Fire Services and the
Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Task Force

For registration information, e-mail Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us,
look on-line at www.mass.gov/dfs/pubedconf or call (978) 567-3381.

SAVE THE DATE!



Haverhill Arrests Spring 2 Innocent Men From Jail

On March 6, 2003, a three-month criminal investigation conducted by North Team Investigators and Haverhill Fire and Police Investigators culminated in the arrest of two individuals and the freeing of two other falsely-accused, incarcerated individuals. The investigation was in relation to an arson fire that had occurred on July 1, 2002 inside a six-family, multi-unit apartment complex. The fire was set in the middle of the night by the deliberate pouring of gasoline throughout the common hallways of the building and igniting it with an open flame. One person was injured and ten animals died in the fire. Based on testimony by witnesses which seemed credible to officers at the time but later was found out to be false, two innocent individuals were arrested, charged and incarcerated for the crime. In December 2002, new information started to surface indicating that it was actually two other individuals who were responsible for setting the fire. A new investigation was initiated leading to the arrest of Christopher Zielinski, 19, of Haverhill and Michael Currier, 24, of Salem, NH. Both men had lengthy arrest records. The motive for setting the fire

was retaliation for a drug deal gone bad almost three years ago.

2 Convictions in Recent Danvers Fires

North Team investigators and Danvers Fire and Police Investigators recently convicted two arsonists for two separate major fires that occurred in Danvers. Richard Cabral, 46, a Medford auto body shop owner was convicted on April 19, 2003, after a week-long trial in Salem Superior Court. Cabral was on trial for setting a room on fire at the Motel 6 on Feb. 10, 2002. The 2-alarm fire was set in the middle of the night in retaliation for a prostitute who had “ripped off” Cabral for some money. Cabral thought that the hooker was still somewhere inside the motel and he set the fire to “smoke everybody out of the motel” in the hopes of finding the prostitute in the parking lot when the motel was evacuated. Unbeknownst to him, the hooker was long gone and Cabral had only the sad faces of over 100 guests including women and children who were sent scurrying out into the freezing cold night in their pajamas. Two other occupants were sent to the hospital for smoke inhalation. One Commonwealth witness, in whom Cabral had confided that he

had set the fire, testified that he asked Cabral, “What are you an idiot? All you had to do was pull the fire alarm.” Cabral was sentenced to 3-5 years at MCI Cedar Junction and three years probation afterwards

Arsonist on Parole Sets Fire

In an unrelated fire, Steven Parziale, 32, plead guilty in Salem Superior Court on April 29, 2003 to a string of arson fires in and around the Danvers area including, the burning down of a local landmark, the Danvers Butchery Store on August 12, 2002. Parziale was no stranger to investigators from the North Team, as he had already done time for a similar string of arsons in the City of Melrose in 1996, which they helped solve. Although he was released from jail, he was still on probation for the Melrose fires when he went on his latest firesetting spree. Parziale’s excuse for setting the fires in Danvers was the same as he had for the Melrose fires. He said that he was a victim of sexual abuse as a child by a relative. He said that when he lights fires, he sees the face of his abuser grimacing in pain in the flames. He was sentenced to eight years at MCI Cedar Junction and 20 years probation afterwards. ♦

Attorney General Stops On-Line Sale of Fireworks

As a result of an investigation started last June by Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly’s Office, two out-of-state companies agreed to stop selling fireworks illegally in Massachusetts and a third is being sued in civil court after the first-ever on-line fireworks sting.

Thunderbolt Fireworks and American Tradition agreed to make sure their websites clearly state they do not sell fireworks in Massachusetts and to install software that will automatically void any on-line orders for delivery in Massachusetts. While neither company admitted liability, they did each pay a \$5,000 civil penalty to the Common-

wealth. The third company, American Eagle Fireworks faces an on-going civil lawsuit that alleges the company illegally sold fireworks to an investigator. A preliminary injunction prohibiting sales of fireworks by this company into Massachusetts was granted by the courts, while the lawsuit is still pending. ♦

Status Report of Compliance/Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation

is made regarding the effective date of the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding

the status of any license or certificate please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services can be reached at either (978) 567-3300 or in western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ♦

Compliance/Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

Blasting Certificate of Competency

Ray Lizott	Revoked	
Kevin MacDonald	Suspended Five Years	Effective 4/9/01
Patrick O'Conner	Suspended Two Years	Effective 12/14/00
Charlie Despotopoulos	Suspended	Pending Re-examination
Frank Kenefick	Suspended Three Years	Effective 6/14/01
Harlan Bean	Suspended Two Years	Effective 12/20/01
Paul Selmer	Suspended	Pending Re-examination
Peter Januskiewicz	Suspended	Re-Examination
Timothy Kenneally	Suspended	Pending Re-Examination
Tony Trotto	Suspended Three Years	Effective 5/7/03
Tim Kelly	Suspended Two Years	Effective 2/20/03
Justin Roulston	Suspended Two Years	Effective 5/29/03
Jerry Renn	Suspended Six Months	Effective 5/29/03

Explosives User's Certificate

Exquisite Craft Development	Suspended Five Years	Effective 4/9/01
Granite Rock Drilling & Blasting	Revoked	
Cynjo Corp.	Suspended Three Years	Effective 10/30/01
CD Explosives	Suspended Three Years	Effective 11/19/01
KD Explosives	Suspended 18 Months	Effective 3/26/03
The Roulston Companies	Suspended Two Years	Effective 5/29/03
Hudson Explosives	Suspended Two Years	Effective 2/20/03

Continued on next page

Compliance/Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

Fireworks Certificate of Competency

Joseph Capone

Suspended Three Months, Re-examination

Effective 9/25/02

Fireworks User's Certificate

Zambelli International

Voluntary Permanent Suspension

Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency

Dennis Welch

Suspended One Year, Re-examination

Effective 8/15/02

International Experts Attend Homeland Security Conference

The Massachusetts Executive of Public Safety and the Department of Fire Services hosted a conference for public safety first responders – firefighters, police, emergency managers, hazardous devices technicians and emergency medical service providers – on how to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction incidents. The conference took place at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center on May 8-8, 2003. This conference drew together some of the world's leading experts on the issues surrounding terrorist acts. Nearly 500 people attended the two-day conference.

Among the presenters were Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety Edward Flynn. Secretary Flynn. He is the former Police Chief in Arlington County, Virginia, and was instrumental in leading the response and recovery effort at the Pentagon after the September 11 terrorist attacks. He co-presented alongside his former colleague, Arlington County Fire

Chief Edward Plaugher, on their experiences responding to the attack on the Pentagon and working together.

"While all members of public safety work hard to prevent a terrorist incident, we will be forgiven if one were to occur- it is inevitable. What we will not be forgiven for, however, is if we are unprepared to respond if such an incident occurs," said Secretary Flynn in describing the goal of the conference.

International experts were also on hand to offer their perspective on effective responses to terrorist incidents. The conferees were attended impressive presentations delivered by Colonel Shlomi Langer, recently retired from the position of Chief of the Operations Unit of the Shin Bet; Colonel Chaim Maoz, retired from the Israeli Defense Force and an expert in counter-terrorism training; and Acting Chief Fire Officer Peter Craig of the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade, who was the incident commander at the Omagh Bombing in August 1998.

Other featured speakers were experts from the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), the On-Site Academy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Rhode Island Medical Examiner's Office, the Greece, NY Police Department and Harvard University's Bio-security program.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "The Department of Fire Services, through its training division the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, strives to provide this type of joint training for fire, police and emergency responders. In the post 9/11 world, all first responders realize that such incidents require them to respond as a single, cohesive entity. Major incidents are not fire scenes or crime scenes or mass casualty scenes, they can be all three. Pre-planning, developing coordinated command and communications, and the person to person working relationships through joint training, are the elements that will save lives in a serious incident." ♦

Recruit Class #157 Graduate

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan is pleased to announce the graduation of the 157th Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-five day Recruit Firefighting Program on May 2, 2003. This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free.

The thirty-eight graduates, two women and thirty-six men, represent the fire departments of: Auburn, Bellingham, Burlington, Dracut, Framingham, Haverhill, Holbrook, Hopkinton, Lawrence, Leominster, Lexington, Longmeadow, Middleboro, Milton, North Andover, Orleans, Plainville, Turners Falls, Walpole, Watertown, Wellesley, Wellfleet, and Worcester.

FEMA Director Addressed Recruits

Special guest U.S. Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency



FEMA Director Michael Brown

Preparedness and Response and Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Michael Brown, spoke to the recruits and addressed their role in homeland security. Mansfield Fire Lieutenant James Puleo, who recently took part in a rescue of people from in Mansfield fire, was the guest speaker.



Lt. Puleo's Graduation Speech

The American Firefighter

Marshal Coan, Director Lamb, Fr. Balicki members of the stage party, fellow instructors, chiefs of department, invited family and friends and most of all graduating firefighters of recruit class 157. Thank you for this opportunity to speak here today.

Today you begin a career as a firefighter. Although you have been labeled "firefighter" as a direct result of much hard work over the last 55 days the title firefighter still remains to be earned every day for the rest of your career. Your instructors are the finest firefighters the state has to offer and have provided a solid foundation upon which you may build a stellar career. It now becomes your professional obligation to yourself, your brother and sister firefighters and to your families to build on this training every day. Feel free to abuse the privilege of this academy, realize this training takes many forms like listening to the scanner, watching other departments work, and war stories at the kitchen table. Listen without judgement or comment. Someday it will be your turn. Seek out and study good jokes; you will soon find out who they are. Good jokes will say attitude is everything and the job requires 100%, no more, no less. These experienced members will show you how to accept praise with dignity and humility and accept losses with character. They are the ones that stand steadfast and square jawed in the face of adversity, proud and tested these members will guide you through the peaks of the job like the saving of life or a good stop at a late night worker; and lead you out of the valleys like political interference with promotion or the loss of life. These are the members that line up in support of a family they may not know during our saddest but ironically proudest moments when one of us

Continued on next page

makes the supreme sacrifice. Ask these members questions get to know what they know then use it. Let's face it, all the fires are out so you can rest assured it works!

Remember ours is a business of service. You have made the conscious decision, and taken all of the necessary steps to protect those that find themselves in harm's way. You are now here for someone else. That someone else could be your department. To make it truly yours, you must participate. To paraphrase president John F. Kennedy's inaugural speech "ask not what your department can do for you, but what you can do for your department". You have skills and talents. Use them to better the department and our service. One fine example of service can be found in last month's issue of firehouse magazine. Mesa, AZ firefighter John Roberts was given a service award by the magazine for donating one of his kidneys to fellow fire Captain John Delaney. This unique trait can be found throughout the fire service and is a tremendous source of pride. Be kind to and take care of each other.

To the families of the graduation firefighters, your loved one is about to embark on the most unique profession in the world. There is a line in a Foley poem presented to my wife as a gift that reads "rich is the man in life who chose to be the other half of a firefighters wife". We are lucky to have spouses like you. My wife often refers to the job as "the other woman". This job will require a great deal of sacrifice. We do not know weekends holidays or nights, it just seems as though we are either in the firehouse or not.

But we are "always on the job". Being married to someone on the job can have its challenges - pay checks, Christmas in the station, birthdays at

work, coming home late from, or going to work early. Please take solace in the fact that there is no one better than a jake when the chips are down. Firefighters have a unique ability to rally around a member and their family in a time of need. I know this to be true, seven years ago my dad, who is not a firefighter, was diagnosed with cancer. My brother and sisters and I wanted to run a blood drive for him and the expected surgery. The Red Cross representative said I could expect only 30 to 50 customers. (It's ok she did not know the fire service tradition of taking care of our own.) We were overwhelmed all day long. The nurses finally got used to all of our horseplay and we more than tripled the original goal. This is one of the reasons my dad sincerely calls firefighters "a special bunch."

Finally, hanging behind me is the greatest example of perseverance, honor, and pride witnessed in the country since the attack on Pearl Harbor both images depict battle weary firefighters raising the American flag over the Pentagon and the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 both actions seem to fulfill our national anthem when we sing: "our flag was still there".

Firefighters in New York City, Arlington, VA, and in rural Pennsylvania responded on that day as we always do. They stopped the bleeding, extinguished the fire and rendered fire aid to our country's injured spirit, proving we are Americans first line of defense against trauma, illness, fires and foreign enemy. Also on that day, 343 firefighters courageously made the supreme sacrifice so that others may live. A most vivid and tangible example of the biblical line "no greater love has one than to lay down one's life for another". These examples and so many

others like them make me proudly bare the title "American firefighter".

I wish you a happy safe and healthy career, and when the time comes, a restful well-earned retirement. Thank you for listening, have a great day and good luck. ♦

Customer Service Tips

Avoid the 3 No's of Meetings

Improve productivity at meetings by making sure they don't suffer from any of the three "No's": No agenda, no objectives and no time limit.

Verbal Handshake

View your phone voice as a handshake: A limp greeting could make callers view you-and your organization-as weak. So always use a strong voice tone and a sincere welcoming phrase, in person and on the outgoing message of your voicemail.

Every Firefighter is a Public Relations Officer

The fire service is spread over the entire world. It employs thousands of firefighters – but the average person will usually form his judgment of the fire service through his contact with one firefighter. If this person is rude and incompetent, it will take a lot of kindness and efficiency to overcome the bad impression. Every member of the fire service who, in any capacity, comes in contact with the public acts as a salesman and the impression he makes in public relations is either – good or bad. ♦

Licensing Exams

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, starting at 9 a.m. Arrangements may be made to take the scheduled exams on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton.

Cannon/Mortar/Fireworks/ Special Effects

9:00 a.m. in Room 109

June 4, 2003

Sept. 9, 2003

Dec. 3, 2003

Fire Extinguishers

9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium

July 22, 2003

Oct. 22, 2003

Blasting

9:00 a.m. in Room 109

July 16, 2003

Oct. 15, 2003

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by contacting Joanne Melanson, at (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. ♦

The DFS Quarterly is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to: Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address:

Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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